

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 171550Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 897

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USAREUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BELGRADE 5164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO PINT PFOR PGOV MOPS

SUBJ: RUMOR OF TITO ILLNESS, WARSAW PACT REACTION PLANNING

1. FRG DEFENSE ATTACHE HOLTORFF HAS INFORMED ALUSNA OF FOLLOWING:
AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR CALLED IN FRG AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA EVENING
OCT 16 TO TELL HIM THAT (A) TITO'S HEALTH IS FAILING RAPIDLY,
AND (B) A STAFF OF SOVIET OR WARSAW PACT OFFICERS IS ASSEMBLED
IN HUNGARY WITH MISSION OF PLANNING PACIFICATION
OF YUGOSLAVIA AFTER TITO. STRICTLY PROTECT ALL SOURCES CITED.

2. ANOTHER RUMOR (RELATED OCT 16 BY EMBASSY CHAUFFEUR) IS THAT
WORD IN BELGRADE MEDICAL CIRCLES HAS IT THAT TITO HAS SUFFERED A
STROKE OCT 12 AND HAS LOST THE POWER OF SPEECH.

3. ALL EMBASSY ELEMENTS WILL BE ALERT TO FURTHER CONFIRMATION/RE-
FUTATION THESE RUMORS BUT WILL AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR SPREAD.

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HOWEVER, FRG DEFENSE ATTACHE IS RELATING HIS STORY ABOUT TOWN IN

ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM, SO IT WILL START COMING BACK FROM SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS VERY SOON.

4. BELGRADE MILITARY INDICATORS BEING CHECKED BY DAO.REPORTS
WILL FOLLOW.
TOON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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